

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 2, as indicated below. Please add new claims 19-26, as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating a the disease ~~selected from diabetes mellitus and atherosclerosis~~ comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of crude *Dunaliella* powder, thereby treating the disease ~~comprising an approximately 1:1 ratio of all trans and 9-cis β -carotene.~~

2. (Currently amended) A method for ~~reducing triglycerides~~ and/or increasing HDL cholesterol levels in the plasma of a subject in need thereof comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of crude *Dunaliella* powder, thereby increasing the HDL cholesterol level.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said crude *Dunaliella* powder is administered together with one or more activators of nuclear receptors.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 3 wherein the activators of nuclear receptors are peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor α or γ (PPAR α or PPAR γ) agonists.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 4 wherein the PPAR α or PPAR γ agonists are selected from fibrates and thiazolidinediones.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the fibrates are selected from clofibrate, fenofibrate, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate, beclofibrate and gemfibrozil.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the thiazolidinediones are selected from troglitazone, BRL 49653, pioglitazone, ciglitazone, WAY-120,744, englitazone, AD 5075, darglitazone and rosiglitazone.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein said crude *Dunaliella* powder is administered orally.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein said *Dunaliella* is *Dunaliella bardawil*.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said powder is encapsulated.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein said crude *Dunaliella* powder is administered together with one or more activators of nuclear receptors.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 11 wherein the activators of nuclear receptors are peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor α or γ (PPAR α or PPAR γ) agonists.

13. (Original) The method according to Claim 12 wherein the PPAR α or PPAR γ agonists are selected from fibrates and thiazolidinediones.

14. (Original) The method according to Claim 13 wherein the fibrates are selected from clofibrate, fenofibrate, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate, beclofibrate and gemfibrozil.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 13 wherein the thiazolidinediones are selected from troglitazone, BRL 49653, pioglitazone, ciglitazone, WAY-120,744, englitazone, AD 5075, darglitazone and rosiglitazone.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 2 wherein said crude *Dunaliella* powder is administered orally.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 2 wherein said *Dunaliella* is *Dunaliella bardawil*.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 2, wherein said powder is encapsulated.

19. (New) A method for treating the disease atherosclerosis comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of crude *Dunaliella* powder together with one or more activators of nuclear receptors, thereby treating the disease.

20. (New) The method according to Claim 19 wherein the activators of nuclear receptors are peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor α or γ (PPAR α or PPAR γ) agonists.

21. (New) The method according to Claim 20 wherein the PPAR α or PPAR γ agonists are selected from fibrates and thiazolidinediones.

22. (New) The method according to Claim 21 wherein the fibrates are selected from clofibrate, fenofibrate, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate, beclofibrate and gemfibrozil.

23. (New) The method according to Claim 21 wherein the thiazolidinediones are selected from troglitazone, BRL 49653, pioglitazone, ciglitazone, WAY-120,744, englitazone, AD 5075, darglitazone and rosiglitazone.

24. (New) The method according to Claim 19 wherein said crude *Dunaliella* powder is administered orally.

25. (New) The method according to Claim 19 wherein said *Dunaliella* is *Dunaliella bardawil*.

26. (New) The method according to Claim 19 wherein said powder is encapsulated.